

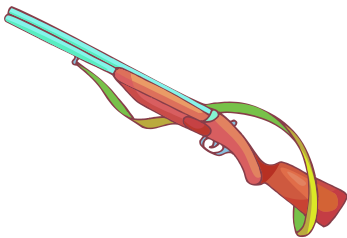
Hunting Safety

Hunting with any type of weapon requires great responsibility to ensure you keep yourself and others safe. Please use the safety tips below as a starting point for hunting safety. Before, during, and after hunting, take time to think through all of your actions. Remember that your life and the lives of those around you depend on the steps you take to keep yourself and those around you safe!



1. If you are not hunting, try to steer clear of areas where hunters may be.
2. Attend a Hunter's Safety Course even if it is not required where you hunt.
3. Hunt in pairs and have a 1st Aid kit available.
4. Take a cell phone and let your location and estimated time of return be known.
5. Know how to properly handle your weapon and follow all gun safety rules.
6. Make sure all of your equipment is in good working condition.
7. Ensure your firearm is properly sighted.
8. If you hunt from a tree stand, always wear a safety harness and make sure the stand is in good condition and installed correctly.
9. Know Missouri's Purple Paint Statute, to avoid hunting on private property.
10. Scout the area you plan to hunt to ensure you are not endangering others.
11. Wear Hunter Orange, dress in layers, and stay hydrated even if it is cool outside.
12. Clean and prepare for your game properly.
13. Report observed violations of the law to a conservation agent or local police.
14. Never point your weapon at something you don't intend to shoot. Also, know what is behind the animal or target you plan to shoot in case you miss or the bullet goes through.

Weapon firing may begin 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.



Hunters born after Jan. 1, 1967

MUST complete an approved hunter education program.

Tree Stand Safety

The tree stand is one of the most popular pieces of deer hunting equipment. Tree stands can be dangerous if they are used incorrectly or carelessly. Nationally, one in three hunting injuries involves a tree stand. Accidental falls from tree stands can have a variety of causes including failure of the stand itself and incorrect installation. Hunters may fall asleep while on their tree stands, or may be injured while handling a loaded firearm during the process of climbing in and out of their stands.

Safety Precautions

- Never carry equipment with you while climbing. Use a haul line to raise or lower your gear. Make sure guns and crossbows are unloaded and broad-heads are covered prior to raising or lowering firearms, crossbows, or bows with a haul line.
 - Always use a climbing belt when climbing up or down a tree. Use a safety harness when hunting from elevated tree stands. Study manufacturer's recommendations before using any equipment. Never use a rope to replace a safety harness.
 - Check permanent tree stands every year before hunting from them.
 - Replace any worn or weak lumber.
 - Read, understand and follow the factory recommended practices and procedures when installing commercial stands. Inspect portable stands for loose nuts and bolts before each use.
 - Choose only healthy, living trees when using climbing devices. Rough-barked trees such as oak are best. Do not use a tree that is rotten or has dead limbs.
- Never put all your weight on a single branch. Keep at least one hand and one foot on a secure place when reaching for the next hold.
- Climb higher than the stand and step down onto it. Climbing up onto it can dislodge it.
- Wear boots with non-skid soles, because steps or platforms can be slippery in rain, sleet or snow.
- Tell a dependable person where you're hunting and when you plan to return. Map your whereabouts and leave a note at camp, at home or in your vehicle so that you can be found. Carrying a cell phone is a good idea.
- If sleepy, move your arms rapidly until you feel alert.
- Never wear a ring while climbing. Rings can catch on tree limbs and equipment.
- As a precautionary measure, clear all debris from the ground below the tree stand.
- Use updated equipment. Newer tree stand equipment is solid, safe and secure. Updated safety harnesses offer more protection than older ones.



Carry a whistle to call for help and carry a first aid kit, flashlight and cellular telephone in a fanny pack.